AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Attorney Docket No.: Q76879

Application No.: 10/634,847

REMARKS

Claims 1-4 and 6-8 are pending in the application. Claims 7 and 8 have been newly

added herewith.

Examiner Interview

Applicant's representative conducted an interview with the Examiner on May 29, 2007

and thanks the Examiner for the courtesies extended at that time. During the interview,

Applicant's representative argued for the allowability of claim 1. At least those arguments

discussed during the interview are presented below.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4 and 6

Particularly, claims 1, 3, 4 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being

unpatentable over Gipe (U.S. Patent No. 4,031,614) in view of Swengel, Sr. et al. (U.S. Patent

No. 3,656,092) and the APA. Applicant respectfully traverses.

First, Gipe fails to teach inserting an electric wire into the insertion hole of a connecting

member and compressing the connecting member as set forth in claim 1, as previously argued in

the Amendment of June 14, 2006. Gipe illustrates two different states in Figs. 1 and 2

(reproduced below), but does not teach the particulars regarding how the device is assembled

from the state of Fig. 1 to Fig. 2. Particularly, Gipe is unclear as to the movement of the wire 29

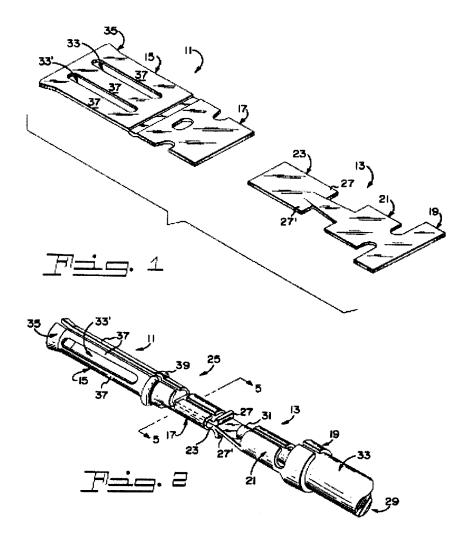
into the connecting member 13 and does not teach inserting an electric wire into the insertion

hole of a connecting member and compressing the connecting member as claimed. For instance,

the alleged connecting member element 13 may be simply wrapped around the wire 29.

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Furthermore, Gipe would not have been modified with Swengel to include a continuous connecting member, as suggested by the Examiner. The Swengel sleeve 24 is preformed and the wire is then inserted. In contrast, Gipe is directed specifically to using a deformable member 13. There is no indication that the Swengel sleeve 24 would be desirable when using the deformable member 13 of Gipe at least because the deformable member 13 is not preformed. Also, the non-continuous shape of deformable member 13 allows it to appropriately wrap around the electric

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wire 29 or to accommodate different and larger sizes. For example, a wire 29 with a larger

diameter than the inside diameter of the deformable member 13 can be accommodated because

of the gap between ends of the deformable member. If Gipe were modified to include a

continuous shape, different sizes could not be accommodated and it would defeat this function of

Gipe. Finally, there is no indication that the Swengel sleeve 24 could serve the function of the

deformable member 13 which is designed to begin flat and then be shaped, as shown in Gipe Fig.

2.

In view of the above, Applicant submits that claim 1 is allowable over the combination of

Gipe, Swengel and the APA. Claims 3, 4 and 6 depend from claim 1 and are allowable at least

by virtue of their dependency.

Claim 2

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gipe in view of

Swengel, the APA and further in view of Hsieh. Claim 2 depends from claim 1. The Examiner

cites Hsieh only as teaching shaping by rotary swagging. Hsieh would not correct the

deficiencies of the combination of Gipe, Swengel and the APA even if it were proper to modify

the combination with Hsieh as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, claim 2 is allowable at

least by virtue of its dependency.

New Claims

Applicant has added new claims 7 and 8. Claims 7 and 8 depend from claim 1 and are

allowable at least by virtue of their dependency.

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Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed

to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the

Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is

kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue

Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any

overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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